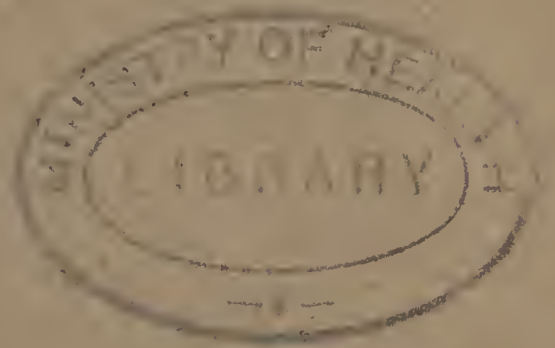


INTELL. LIBRARY

E

URBAN DISTRICT OF
NEWTON-IN-MAKERFIELD.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st,

1925.

HARVEYS',
Printers, Bridge Street, Earlestown.

1926.

URBAN DISTRICT OF
NEWTON IN-MAKERFIELD.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st,

1925.

HARVEYS',
Printers, Bridge Street, Earlestown.

1926.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29910067>

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS,
May, 1926.

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE
OF THE NEWTON-IN-MAKERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1925.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, this report must be a "Survey Report."

The estimate of the population of the district at the middle of 1925 has been supplied by the Registrar General as 19,910, and on this estimate will be based the rates for births, deaths, disease, etc., which will be found below.

I am quite certain that this estimate is much below the actual population. In view of the fact that there were 4,040 inhabited houses, and none unoccupied, at the middle of the year, and that there were slightly more than five persons per inhabited house when the Census was taken in 1921, when many families were away on holiday, and that there are about 100 houses overcrowded, it is reasonable to believe that the actual population at the middle of 1925, taking five persons per occupied house, was about 20,200. It is, however, on the Registrar's estimate which the rates below will be calculated.

Many facts will be omitted from the text of this report, as they will be found fully detailed in the tables appended to the report, which are required by the County Council.

The first part of the report will be devoted to the particulars referring chiefly to the year 1925. Later a survey will be given for the previous five years.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The district is bounded on the North and North-West by the Urban Districts of Golborne, Ashton-in-Makerfield and Haydock. On the West, South-West, South and South-East by the Warrington Rural District, and on the East by the Leigh Rural District.

The district is generally flat, the lowest part running North and South near the middle of the area, that is, by the area occupied by Newton Lake and Newton Brook. From this location the land rises to the East and West, the highest parts being at or near the extreme Eastern and Western boundaries. The land falls rapidly at the West to the Sankey Brook, which forms the West and South-Western boundary of the district.

The whole of the western part of the district has a subsoil of clay, about one quarter to one third of the total area. The remainder is sand and sandstone. The line dividing the two varieties of subsoil runs roughly from north-west to south-east, through the Crow Lane and Wargrave wards.

The district is residential to a small extent only, the professional classes to a somewhat greater extent, but the greatest number of the residents belong to the artisan class. The greatest area is agricultural, but the number of residents following this work is not large.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are at the L. M. and S. Railway Wagon Works and the Locomotive Works of the Vulcan Foundry, Ltd. These two works together find employment for over 4000 persons. In addition to the above there are a Sugar Refinery, Glass Bottle and Flint Glass, Printing and Stationery, and Bleaching, Dyeing and Calico Printing Works. There are no coal pit shafts in the district, although coal is being mined under the district, and many residents are engaged in this industry.

None of these occupations has been found especially prejudicial to the health of the workers engaged in them.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The various rates, etc. are given below in tabular form and grouped as far as possible, to facilitate reference.

The total number of births belonging to the district was 374, and the total number of deaths 220. The "natural increase" was therefore 154. Full particulars of every death but one has been received, the Registrar-General giving the number as 220, but I have particulars of 219 only. The births actually belonging to the district which were registered here was 358, but 16 births of children belonging to parents usually resident in the district, were born elsewhere and have been referred to this district.

BIRTHS.—Of the total number belonging to the district, 374, there were 185 males and 189 females. Included in these numbers were the births of 6 male and 6 female illegitimate children.

The births were distributed as follows:—

Wards.	Nos.
Town Hall	116
Viaduct	66
Crow Lane	66
Newton	44
Wargrave	66
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 358
Born away, not allocated	16
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
Total	374
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>

DEATHS.—Of the total number registered in the district, 186, five were of non-residents, and have been deducted and referred to the districts in which they usually resided. 38 occurred in other districts, and must be included in this district, also the death of the resident of whom I have no particulars, making a total of 220.

Of the total number, 220, actually belonging to the district, there were 127 males and 93 females. Included in these numbers were the deaths of 2 male and 3 female illegitimate children under one year of age.

The deaths were distributed as follows:—

Wards.	Nos.
Town Hall	75
Viaduct	50
Crow Lane	35
Newton	24
Wargrave	35
	<hr/>
	219
Not allocated	1
	<hr/>
Total	220
	<hr/>

Of the 38 deaths which occurred outside the district, 35 occurred in institutions for the receipt of the sick, and 3 in private residences.

The distribution according to disease was:—

Under 1 and 1 year.	2 and under 2.	3 and under 3	4 and under 4	5 and under 5	10 and under 10	15 and under 15	20 and under 20
27	9	2	—	2	6	3	4
	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards			
	15	15	64	72			

Total 219.

The distribution according to disease is given in the table below, which has been supplied by the Registrar-General the sexes being given in separate columns:—

	Male.	Female.
Scarlet Fever.....	—	2
Whooping Cough	2	3
Diphtheria	1	—
Influenza	12	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	2
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	17	3
do. Other forms	—	2
Cancer, malignant disease	12	7
Rheumatic Fever	—	3
Diabetes	2	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	5	2

	Male.	Female.
Heart Disease	5	17
Arterio-Sclerosis	6	3
Bronchitis	11	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	16	20
Other Respiratory diseases	1	—
Diarrhœa, &c (under 2 years).....	1	1
Appendicitis and Typhilitis	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	2
Congenital debility and malformation, Premature birth	4	4
Suicide	1	—
Other deaths from violence	8	1
Other defined diseases	18	19
Causes ill-defined or unknown	2	—
Totals	127	93

Two deaths occurred in the Isolation Hospital, one male 4 years of age, from Diphtheria, of the Viaduct Ward, and one female 7 years of age, from Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, of the Wargrave Ward.

The following deaths occurred from the seven principal zymotic diseases:—

Scarlet Fever	2
Whooping Cough	5
Diphtheria	1
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	2
Total	10

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS—Five occurred, and were attributed to the following causes:—

Heart Failure—1 male, 58 years, of Viaduct Ward.
do. ... —1 male, 61 years, of Crow Lane Ward.
Cerebral Hæmorrhage—1 male, 67 years, of Wargrave Ward.
Convulsions—1 female, 21 days, of Town Hall Ward.
Influenza and Heart Failure—1 male, 41 years, of Wargrave Ward.

VIOLENT DEATHS.—10 occurred, the usual Inquest was held in each case, and the following causes were found:—

Male, 62 years—Newton Ward—Found drowned	1
Male, 65 years—Town Hall Ward—Fracture skull, fall from ladder.....	1
Male, 76 years—Crow Lane Ward—Fracture skull, fall downstairs.....	1
Male, 25 years—Town Hall Ward—Found drowned...	1
Male, 46 years—Crow Lane Ward—Found drowned...	1
Male, 36 years—Wargrave Ward—Strangulation, Suicide.....	1
Male, newly born—Wargrave Ward—Neglect and exposure—found dead in train.....	1
Male, 38 years—Town Hall Ward—Run over by motor.....	1
Male, 55 years—Newton Ward—Found drowned	1
Male, 21 years—Crow Lane Ward—Fracture skull, from collision between cycle and motor-car.	1
Total	10

I give now the table of rates for 1925 and previous years, calculated on the estimated population stated under each year. The rates are per 1000 persons, except the Infant death-rate, which is per 1000 births.

	Numbers	1925 19910	1924 19840	Average 10 yrs. 1915-24	England & Wales 1925
Births	374	18·7	20·2	22·26	18·3
Deaths	220	11·0	11·7	12·42	12·2
Infant Mortality ...	27	72·0	79·0	92·0	75·0
Zymotic Diseases (7 principal) ...	10	·5	1·0	·86	—
T.B. Lungs ...	20	1·00	·85	·84	—
do Other forms ...	2	·1	·05	·17	—
do All forms ...	22	1·1	·9	1·02	—
Respiratory Diseases excluding Phthisis) ...	51	2·56	1·86	2·32	—
Infectious Diseases (notified under Act)					
Sick rates ..	152	7·63	3·42	7·16	—
T.B. Lungs new cases					
Sick rates ...	43	2·15	1·61	1·19	—
T.B. Other forms					
new cases. Sick rates	13	·65	·65	·79	—
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	113	5·67	5·04	4·25	—
Whooping Cough ...	170	8·53	·20	—	—
Total Sick rates ...	491	24·66	10·73	17·66	—

Pneumonia has only been a notifiable disease since 1919; the mean rate given above is, therefore, the average for 5 years.

The standardising "factor" for this district is 1.042, which has been supplied by the Registrar-General, and the corrected death-rate calculated by this factor is 11.5 per 1000.

The high Infectious sick rates are due to the epidemics of Measles and German Measles in 1916, 17 and 18, and to the epidemic of Whooping Cough in 1925.

The deaths of children under five years of age (40) were 18.18 per cent. of the total deaths. For last year the percentage was 28.32, and the mean rate for the previous 10 years was 27.36.

The tables of the principal rates for this and previous years, and some variations, will be found below and in the appendices attached to the report.

The County Medical Officer has had the following statistics compiled which relate to this district. Some of the rates do not quite agree with the figures I have given above, probably due to our working on slightly different estimates of the populations.

RATES PER 1 000 OF POPULATION.

	Birth rate.	Death-rate.	Death-rate from Respirat'y T'berc'losis	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
Mean of 10 years				
1915-1924 ...	21.5	12.4	0.87	92
1924 ...	20.2	11.7	0.85	79
1925 ...	18.7	11.0*	1.00	72
<i>Increase or Decrease</i> <i>in 1925 on—</i>				
<i>Ten Years' Average</i>	—2.8	—1.4	—0.13	—20.0
<i>Previous Year ...</i>	—1.5	—0.7	—0.15	—7.0

* Standardizing factor 1.042, gives the corrected death-rate for 1925 as 11.5 per 1000.

POOR-LAW RELIEF.—I am indebted to the Local Relieving Officer for the following particulars:—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total
March quarter — Outdoor relief	39	95	165	299
Indoor d .	12	7	0	19
Medical do.	6	11	29	46

		Men.	Women.	Children.	Total
June quarter	— Outdoor relief	33	90	160	286
	Indoor do.	14	18	13	45
	Medical do.	12	15	37	64
Sep'mb'r quarter	— Outdoor relief	31	97	127	255
	Indoor do.	15	15	8	38
	Medical do.	8	11	29	48
Dec'mber quarter	— Outdoor relief	39	104	143	286
	Indoor do.	11	10	7	28
	Medical do.	7	11	27	45

The total number of persons in receipt of relief is NOT the total of the numbers given in the above list, as some of these persons were in receipt of relief throughout the year, whilst others would have been relieved in one or more quarters, and would be recorded separately in each of the quarters in which they were relieved.

The figures in the above table do not include any relief granted to the "unemployed."

The expenditure was:—

	In Money.	In kind.	Total
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
First quarter	727 13 6	31 17 4	759 10 10
Second quarter	733 11 6	27 12 1	761 3 7
Third quarter	773 1 6	23 8 5	796 9 11
Fourth quarter	949 1 0	43 16 11	992 17 11
Tota's	3183 7 6	126 14 9	3310 2 3

There was a considerable amount of un- and under-employment throughout the year, as some of the works were closed altogether, or working short time. A greater number of persons received relief in one form or another, and the total expenditure was £946 4s. 9d. greater than last year.

There is no method of ascertaining the extent to which hospital and other forms of medical relief are utilized; but owing to the large number of hospitals in neighbouring towns, it is probably considerable.

In the first quarter there was a persistent dull and cloudy air, with much rain, especially in February, but no frost or snow. There was consequently a great deal of Pneumonia.

There was very little infectious disease, but Whooping Cough had appeared in the district towards the end of the quarter.

April and May were also wet, dull, and colder than usual, and there was still much Pneumonia, and a great increase in the number of cases of Whooping Cough.

June was, however, brilliantly fine and hot, with a very marked decrease in the amount of general illness, but Whooping Cough continued to spread.

The brilliant weather experienced in June continued till the end of the third week of July, when it became wet and much cooler. The rainfall increased and August was very wet, September being almost as wet. There was still much Whooping Cough, and an epidemic of Scarlet Fever throughout the district, but affecting the Town Hall and Wargrave wards principally. The accommodation at the the Fever Hospital was at times severely taxed. There was much Pneumonia in this quarter.

In the last quarter the months of October and December were wet and mild, but November was extremely cold, with much frost and much fog, dense and dirty. There was during this month a great amount of pulmonary complaints. The epidemics of Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough ceased almost entirely during the quarter.

A few cases of Measles occurred during this quarter, and some Chicken-pox. This disease affected the Wargrave Ward almost exclusively, and necessitated the closure of the Wargrave Infant School.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

These are so fully detailed in the form which the County Medical Officer has drawn up to assist in making these reports, and for which one is deeply indebted to him, that to say much now would be redundant.

The chief feature of the year was the opening of the War Memorial Hospital, which occurred in January.

The Hospital, as its title implies, was built in memory of those members of the district who fell in the Great War, and was built almost entirely by contributions of the residents.

The hospital contains at present ten beds, and was primarily intended as an accident hospital, but fortunately these have not occurred in such large numbers to keep the hospital fully occupied, and much use has been made for other cases.

The fact that no death occurred in the hospital during its first year is a very satisfactory one to record.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Most of the particulars under this heading are also fully detailed in the County form at the end of the report, and need not be much amplified now.

WATER.—This is obtained from the water-works belonging to the town, and is from two deep wells with headings in Southworth Road.

The water itself is of good quality, as has been shown by every analysis which has been made in previous years. It is, however, rather hard, and at times contains a sediment which is composed of mineral and vegetable matters, which, although harmless, are objectionable.

Much more efficient and systematic flushing is necessary to keep the mains free from this sediment.

There is no risk of contamination of the water, as all houses in the neighbourhood are directly connected with the sewers, and the well heads are very efficiently protected. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—There are no rivers in the district, the largest streams being the Newton and the Sankey Brooks. The rest are small.

All these watercourses are more or less polluted, especially the Millingford Brook, which enters the district as it falls into Newton Lake. This is polluted before it enters the district by effluents from Ashton-in-Makerfield and Golborne, and since the second quarter has been considerably more polluted by the effluent from the artificial silk mill in Golborne. In May this caused the death of practically the whole of the fish in Newton Lake, and the smell was very objectionable. This has continued more or less ever since, and many complaints were received from the residents living near.

Your Sanitary Inspector and I have kept this brook under constant observation, have interviewed the Officials of the Golborne District Council, and called the attention of the County Council to the state of the brook, as the County is the proper Authority to deal with the matter, under the Rivers Pollution Act.

The Newton Brook is polluted by the effluent from Newton Lake, also by the Calico Printing Works and by the effluent from the Central Sewage works. The drainage also enters the brook further down from the Vulcan Village.

The Sankey Brook is seriously polluted before it reaches the district, by St. Helens and other districts. It is also somewhat polluted by the effluent from your Western Sewage works, and by the drainage from the Vitriol Square.

The Sankey Brook also comes under the County Council under the Rivers Pollution Act, and the attention of this Council has been drawn to the state of the brook.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—With the exception of outlying parts of the district, and the Vulcan and Vitriol Square areas, the whole district is drained by your system of sewers. This passes through the sewers, of earthenware socketted pipes, to the two sewage works.

The new septic tank at the Central works was brought into service during the year. Owing, however, to the number of new houses completed and contemplated, and the somewhat large number of conversions to the water carriage system, further extensions for adequately treating this sewage will be required in the succeeding years.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND SCAVENGING are so fully dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's report, and in the County form, that no further comment is now necessary.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—These inspections have been made by the Sanitary Inspector and me, separately and together, and are fully detailed in his report, which is now appended.

Town Hall,
Earlestown,
April 26th, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Newton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year ending 31st December, 1925.

NUISANCES.—The following nuisances were dealt with:—

Defective closet pails	103
Drainage, gullies and waste pipe defects	30
Defective privies	15
Want of or defective ashpit doors	85
Defective ashbins	17
Water closet defects	4
Defective roofs, gutters, and rain-water pipes	28
General disrepair of houses	37
Other nuisances	11
Total	330

Nuisances unabated at end of year	12
Complaints received of nuisances	24
Preliminary notices and letters re nuisances	137
Town Planning Intimatory Notices	28

Legal Notices:—

Public Health Act, 1875. Section 94	10
Housing and Town Planning Act. Section 3.....	4
Dwellings inspected	46
Houses in which defects were found	46
Houses wherein defects were remedied	39

CONDEMNED DWELLINGS.—One unfit dwelling-house was closed by the owners, leaving four still on the condemned list and occupied at the end of the year.

BACK-TO-BACK HOUSES.—There are 16 houses of this class in the district; they are structurally good, and it has not been deemed advisable to deal with them, owing to the existing shortage of suitable houses.

Inspections :—

Nuisances	550
Re Conversions	340
Dairies, Cowsheds, &c.	40
Slaughterhouses and Meat Shops ...	208
Bakehouses and Workshops	120
Complaints	24
Total.....	1282

EMPTYING OF PAILS, PRIVIES AND ASHBINS.—The loads dealt with from each source are shown in the following table :—

Year.	Pails.	Privies.	House Refuse.	Total.
1916	1872	... 873	... 4177	... 6922
1917	1878	... 711	... 4171	... 6760
1918	1879	... 579	... 4163	... 6621
1919	1879	... 859	... 4587	... 7235
1920	1890	... 1069	... 4875	... 7834
1921	1877	... 1079	... 5432	... 8388
1922	1872	... 977	... 5427	... 8276
1923	1945	.. 938	... 5646	... 8529
1924	1996	... 914	... 6163	... 9073
1925	1982	... 685	... 6037	... 8704

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Including Whooping Cough, which was made a notifiable disease during the year, a total of 507 cases were notified. The Ambulance was used on 95 occasions for the removal of patients to the Isolation Hospital.

Houses disinfected	165
Rooms disinfected	291
Schools disinfected	1
Library books from infected houses	22
Houses from which bedding was removed	148
No. of articles passed through steam disinfecter.....	1720
Inspector's Visits of enquiry and disinfecting	332

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—Three premises are licensed. The Council's slaughterhouse is let from year to year to one butcher for regular pig killing, but is available for other slaughtering at any time. Visits are regularly made at or about the time of slaughtering. Notification of this to the Inspector is now compulsory wherever the killing of animals for human food is carried out. Meat shops and any premises where meat foods are prepared or stored are subject to inspection, and no violation of the Meat and Food Regulations was reported during the year.

CONDEMNED FOOD.—The following food was surrendered after being condemned as unfit:—

One tuberculous beast	500 lbs.
Imported meat	50
Dutch bacon	80
Condensed milk	9 tins.

No legal seizure was made during the year.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS—

Registered Milkshops	7
Registered Retail Milk Purveyors ...	21
Registered Cowkeepers	12

Forty visits of inspection were made to the Cowsheds and Milkshops.

MILK SAMPLES.—12 samples were taken and submitted for examination: "No tubercle bacilli found" was the laboratory report in each case.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—

Number of Workshops on Register	82.
Bakers and Confectioners	17
Dressmakers, Milliners and Tailors	22
Joiners and Woodworkers	10
Workplaces	5
Boot, Shoe and Leather-workers	13
Laundries	2
Motors, Cycles, Iron, Tin and Wireless Workshops...	12
Printer (without power)	1

Total 82

Notices from H.M. Inspector of Factories	2
Notices from H.M. Inspector complied with	2
Underground Bakehouses in district	2

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—To those scheduled as offensive in Section 112, Public Health Act, 1875, that of a Fishfryer has been added and applies locally. This is the only offensive trade carried on in the district, and the shops and premises are subject to inspection. 25 places where fish-frying may be carried on are established.

CONVERSION OF PRIVIES AND PAILS TO W.C.'s.—

	Privies.	Pails.
1911	7	6
1912	15	6
1913	41	13
1914	181	2
1915	1	—
1916-17-18	Nil.	Nil.
1919	5	5
1920	28	21
1921	36	7
1922	44	23
1923	25	17
1924	27	32
1925	117	53

Total number of houses with privies, including farms...	212
Total number of middens	138
Number of houses outside sewage treatment areas, including farms...	98
Number of middens in these areas	59
Houses with privies within range of Council's sewers...	114
Number of middens attached to these	79

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY ASHCROFT,

Sanitary Inspector.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. Some observations have been made, and in cases where there has been an undue emission of dense smoke, the attention of the several factory officials has been called to the nuisance, and the nuisance considerably abated in all cases,

All other matters under the heading of "Sanitary Circumstances" are detailed in the Sanitary Inspector's report and in the County form, and need not be further elaborated now.

SCHOOLS.—All the schools in the district except the Technical and one private school are Public Elementary schools. With few exceptions they are modern buildings, and are generally kept in good order.

The water supply of all the schools is from the public supply, and the closet accommodation is modern and in good order.

The playgrounds of several of the schools require repairing as they are getting worn. The best method is by asphalt or concrete. The ground at St. Peter's School was undergoing re-making in cement at the end of the year.

Epidemics of Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, and a small number of cases of Mumps, followed at the end of the year by Chicken-pox and Measles, occurred. Whooping Cough began at the end of the first quarter, and persisted till the beginning of the last quarter. Scarlet Fever occurred chiefly in third quarter, and Chicken-pox and Measles in the last quarter. There were not many cases of the last-named, and the Chicken-pox was confined chiefly to the Wargrave ward, and affected the attendance at the Wargrave Infant School so much that closure was necessitated towards the end of the year.

Of 112 cases of Scarlet Fever notified, 69 occurred in children of school age, and nearly all were removed to hospital.

Of the 170 cases of Whooping Cough notified, only 51 were in children of school age. The number of notifications in this disease, however, has no relation to the total number of cases which occurred, as probably between one-third and one-half of the cases were never seen by any medical man, and large numbers of these would be of school age. The Town Hall and Wargrave wards had by far the most cases.

Pneumonia occurred much in infants and young children but children of school age were not particularly affected.

The suggestions contained in the Memorandum on Closure and Exclusion from School, 1925, were carried out throughout the year with very good results, as much less closure was necessary than in previous years.

The difficulty with Whooping Cough and Measles also regarding school children, is that both diseases have usually ob-

tained a firm hold on the scholars before the nature of the disease is recognised.

The usual report was made to you, advising the closure of the Wargrave Infant School, and a copy sent to the County Medical Officer, as required.

HOUSING AND HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1925.

The whole of the information desired by the Ministry of Health is fully detailed in the County forms, and notice now would be redundant.

At the moment, however, I might mention that some of the houses at the lower ends of Athol and Clarence Streets are showing signs of colliery subsidences.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—An adequate supply of milk is available in the district; the greater part is imported chiefly from farms in Cheshire.

The quality is generally good, as the results of samples taken for analysis show.

A good deal of milk is now supplied in the district from the Beeches Farm, Haydock. This milk is produced, cooled,

and bottled immediately after milking, under the most modern conditions. The bottles are sealed at the same time, and the milk is delivered in the sealed bottles direct to the customers. A further advantage in the distribution of this milk is that it is delivered twice daily, whereas I believe I am correct in stating that all other supplies are delivered once only each day.

Twelve samples of milk were taken during the year for examination for Tuberculosis. These samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and all found free from liability to cause Tuberculosis.

Under the Order referring to tuberculous cattle which came into force on the 1st September, 1925, a cow suspected of this disease was slaughtered and submitted to examination by the Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. Ferguson, of Warrington, and by your Officials. The cow was found to be in an advanced state of the disease, and the whole carcass was surrendered.

Other particulars in reference to milk will be found fully detailed in the County form at the end of the report.

MEAT.—The Sanitary Inspector receives the notices of proposed slaughter of animals under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, and visits the slaughter-houses at the time of killing, and inspects the carcasses and organs. No arrangements have been made for the marking of meat. All unsound meat is sent to a works for the manufacture of manure.

OTHER FOODS.—These are dealt with by the County Police, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and the following list supplied by the Inspector of Police for this Division gives a record of work done by the Police during the year:—

Milk	29
Butter	4
Margarine	4
Coffee	1
Pepper	2
Lard	2
Bicarbonate of Soda.....	1
<hr/>	
Total	43
<hr/>	

There were no prosecutions, as all samples were found genuine.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 322 new cases of Infectious disease were notified under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889. Under the Tuberculosis Regulations 43 new cases of Respiratory and 13 of Other forms of Tuberculosis were notified. 42 re-notifications of Respiratory and 7 of Other forms of Tuberculosis were received during the year.

Under the March, 1919, regulations, 108 new cases of Primary and 5 of Influenzal Pneumonia were notified.

Scarlet Fever was particularly prevalent in the third quarter, Whooping Cough in the second, third, and fourth quarters, and Pneumonia in the first, second, and fourth quarters. In the first, second and last quarters the climatic conditions were bad, and were conducive to Pneumonia and other pulmonary diseases.

The free communication between this and other districts which exists now, by train, and bus, and the number of places of entertainment, are, in my opinion, the commonest causes of dissemination of these diseases. In the great majority of cases no source of infection can be found, but the onset of the disease gives an incubation period suggesting strongly a visit to some place of entertainment or journey to some other town.

Whooping Cough will usually be a very difficult disease to control, as long as parents believe it to be a mild disease, and one in which it is unnecessary to seek medical aid unless there are complications. In the recent epidemic the Health Visitor informed me that there were probably twice as many cases un-notified as were notified, and that in Athol and Clarence Streets hardly a house was free, many cases occurring in almost every house in these streets.

... Of the non-notifiable diseases there was little, some Mumps occurred in the second quarter, and some Chicken-pox in the last, this disease being almost confined to the Wargrave ward, and causing the closure of the Wargrave Infant School.

The new cases were distributed as follows:—

	Town Hall.	Viaduct.	Crow Lane.	Newton.	War- grave.
Diphtheria ...	7	2	—	3	2
Erysipelas ...	7	3	3	3	4
Scarlet Fever ...	34	23	13	6	36
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia					
Neonatorum ...	1	1	1	—	—
Encephalitis					
Lethargica	1	—	1	—	—
Ac: Primary Pneumonia	39	24	10	10	25
Ac: Influenzal do. ...	4	1	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberc'lo's	13	7	12	3	8
Other Forms of do.	6	1	2	2	2
Whooping Cough ...	67	21	18	25	39
Totals	179	83	61	52	116

The cases removed to hospital were:—

	Town Hall.	Viaduct.	Crow Lane.	Newton.	War- grave.
Diphtheria	6	2	—	3	2
Scarlet Fever	26	15	12	4	24
Respiratory Tub r'e's.	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	33	17	12	7	26

One case of suspected diphtheria was also removed to hospital. One nursing mother was also admitted with her infant, which was suffering from diphtheria.

Cases under treatment in the Fever Hospital were:—

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Resp'y Tub'cl's.
Under treatment, 1st Jan. ...	2	5	—
Admitted during year ...	20	89	1
Total under Treatment ...	22	94	1
Discharged or Died ...	21	90	1
Still under treatment, 31st Dec.	1	4	—

In the above list were the admission of 6 cases of Diphtheria and 8 of Scarlet Fever from the Warrington Rural District. All except one case of Scarlet Fever had been discharged by the end of the year.

Two deaths occurred in the hospital, one from Diphtheria and one from Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. Both belonged to this district.

Since the hospital was opened in 1912, the total number of cases admitted to the end of 1925 was 1064. The number of deaths was 32, which I consider a very good record, especially in view of the fact that several were admitted actually dying, and some others too late for any benefit from hospital treatment.

There were 30 deaths from Pneumonia, out of 113 notified.

Smallpox did not occur, and no vaccinations have been performed by me as Medical Officer under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at the Town Hall, Earlestown, the Fever Hospital, and at my residence. Prompt use is made in all cases, about 110,000 units having been used in the year.

The arrangements made with the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for the examination of specimens, pathological and bacteriological, is still in force, and a list of examinations is given in the County form at the end of the report.

All further particulars required will be found in the County form.

The age distribution of all the cases notified will also be found in the County form.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The new cases of all forms of this disease and the deaths are given in the County form.

No un-notified case has come under my notice during the year.

Twenty-three names were removed from the register by death during the year, three having died after leaving the district. Thirteen others were removed who had been kept under observation by Dr. Laird, Consultant Tuberculosis Officer, and had shown no signs of the disease for five years in the case of Respiratory, and three years in the case of Other forms of Tuberculosis, and were marked as "cured" under instructions from the Ministry of Health. Five were also removed for other reasons.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOUS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

One case only occurred in a person engaged in the milk trade, and he was promptly removed to a Sanatorium.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

No action has been taken, or required, under this Act.

I have received notifications during the year of the following admissions to and discharge from Sanatoria and Hospitals. The list is incomplete, as many cases admitted to or discharged from hospitals are never notified at all.

	<u>Admitted.</u>	<u>Discharged or died.</u>
Sanatoria.	27.	15.
Hospitals.	5.	2.
Poor Law Hospitals.	5.	2.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The classes have been conducted regularly at Newton Town Hall, on Mondays, and on Thursdays at Earlestown Town Hall; they have usually been well attended, but the frequently inclement weather and the epidemic of Whooping Cough affected the attendance a good deal at times.

On account of the epidemic of Whooping Cough no "Baby Week" was held.

All infant deaths and stillbirths were the subject of enquiry, and were chiefly found to be due to difficult labours or very large children; others were due to definite illnesses or deli-

cacy of the mothers. There is no doubt that some of these might be saved by the institution of an ante-natal class, but a separate place and day of meeting will be required, as it is impossible to carry out the work at the Infant Welfare classes, and the rooms available are not suitable nor properly equipped.

A maternity hospital for the district is, in my opinion, a great need, as there is no such hospital nearer than Warrington, Manchester, and Liverpool, and the first-named is not large enough to always accept patients at a moment's notice, and the others are too far to move some of the more urgent cases.

Dr. Isabel Cameron, one of H.M. Inspectors in the Maternity department, visited the district on the 3rd December, to inspect the Welfare class, and whilst here inspected several houses which had been offered for a maternity home, and after meeting the Sub-Committee of the Council dealing with these matters. I regret to state that the Ministry did not feel justified in sanctioning the project at the present time.

The infant death-rate is lower, and the percentage of deaths of children under five years of age to total deaths is 18.18, which is the lowest recorded, if memory serves me aright. This is very satisfactory, and I cannot help thinking that the attention paid to the children for some years is showing definite results.

Three cases of Ophthalmia occurred, and all did well and have not affected the sight.

One midwife was the subject of disciplinary action by the Midwives Committee on account of irregularities.

I have attended every welfare class during the year, except when on holiday, and during my absence Dr. Latham has very kindly undertaken my duties.

The Health Visitor and I continued our short lectures to the mothers, and propose to continue them during the next winter.

I now append the Health Visitor's report.

Town Hall,
 Earlestown,
 17th April, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the
 Newton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year ending 31st December, 1925.

The total number of births notified was 381, including 25 still births.

Number visited, 376, including all still births.

Two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified.

Special visits made to the two cases, 16.

Re-visits have been made and advice given according to the needs of each case.

Advice given to 26 expectant mothers. 70 home visits made.

Enquiries regarding deaths of Infants age under one year have been made. The total number registered here is 25—

4 age one day or under.

7 age over one day and under one month.

2 age one month.

1 age four months.

1 age five months.

1 age six months.

4 age seven months.

1 age eight months.

1 age nine months.

2 age ten months.

1 age eleven months.

FEEDING IN THE CASE
 OF INFANTS.

6 no feeding.

10 breast fed.

9 hand fed.

25

25 Total

Re-Visits—

1st Visits	376
2nd Visits	365
3rd Visits	406
Additional Visits	1871
To Children over one year—Visits.	2089
Pertussis—Visits	120
Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Visits ...	16
Expectant Mothers—Visits	70
Enquiries—Deaths of Infants— ... Visits...	25
Total	5338

INFANT WELFARE CLASSES.

TOWN HALL, EARLESTOWN.—Open 45 times; Thursday afternoons, 2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m.

305 Mothers made 2357 attendances.

220 Babies made 1615 attendances.

160 Children made 1103 attendances.

NEWTON TOWN HALL.—Open 43 times; Monday afternoons 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

43 Mothers made 443 attendances.

33 Babies made 335 attendances.

15 Children made 311 attendances.

FREE MILK granted to 335 families; including 275 children, 38 expectant mothers, 34 nursing mothers.

DRIED MILK.—5074 lbs. dried milk sold; 324 lbs. of Virol sold.

SUMMARY OF BIRTHS NOTIFIED.

Month.	Doctors' Cases.	Still Births.	Midwives Cases.	Still Births	Total Still Births	Total
January ...	12	0	20	1	1	32
February ...	5	0	20	1	1	25
March ...	7	2	24	4	6	31
April ...	12	0	26	1	1	38
May ...	15	2	17	1	3	32
June ...	11	0	30	1	1	41
July ...	11	1	19	0	1	30
August ...	8	2	20	0	2	28
September ...	11	0	24	0	0	35
October ...	14	3	21	1	4	35
November ..	5	0	23	2	2	28
December ...	9	1	17	2	3	26
Total 1925...	120	11	261	14	25	381
Total 1924...	150	16	260	6	22	410
Total 1923...	133	8	271	3	11	404
Total 1922...	139	7	291	15	22	430
Total 1921...	169	11	362	7	18	458

The Ladies' Committee have attended well during the year.

The Mothers' and Babies' Party was held on the 17th December. Dr. W. Latham, Chairman, Health, Maternity and Child Welfare Committees, welcomed the mothers and babies. Coun. A. Tully, J.P., Chairman of the Council, presented the prizes to mothers and children for good attendance.

The Maternity Bags undertaken by the Ladies of the Committee are ready, and are to be distributed to each Ward.

One Bag to be kept at the Town Hall.

I take this opportunity of thanking the Committee, and Mrs. C. Cole, the Secretary, for their very useful help throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ANNIE JACKSON,

Health Visitor.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following is a list of factories in the district. The list of workshops will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

L. M. & S. Rly Co.—Wagon building.
 Vulcan Foundry, Ltd.—Locomotive building.
 Sankey Sugar Co., Ltd.—Sugar refining.
 T. & T. Vicars—Engineering.
 C. Borron & Co.—Bottle-making.
 West Lancashire Flint Glass Co.—Flint glass making.
 Explosive Factory—Manufacture of explosives.
 Earlestown Steam Laundry—Laundering.
 McCorquodale & Co., Ltd.—Printing and Stationery.
 J.F. & E. Caulfield—Bleaching, Dyeing and Calico Printing.

The Flint Glass Works, and I believe, Messrs. Borron's Bottle Works, were not working during the year. At several other factories there was a greater or less amount of work, consequently there was a good deal of unemployment or under employment.

I have visited almost all the factories during the year, and the Sanitary Inspector has visited all the workshops, and almost invariably found all in order.

The sanitary arrangements are sufficient and all modern or on modern lines.

No homework is carried out in the district, and as I have not received any lists of homeworkers who work for places outside the district, I presume that none exists.

Alterations have been made at some of the factories, but no great extensions have taken place.

The following inspections have been made:—

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories			
(including Factory Laundries)	39	...	—
Workshops			
(including Workshop Laundries)	60	...	—
Workplaces			
(other than Outworkers' premises)...	28	...	—
Total	127	...	—

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces:

Particulars.	Defects	
	Found.	Remedied.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.		
Want of cleanliness	2	2

No reports to H.M. Inspector was necessary, and there was no prosecution.

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

I am indebted to your Surveyor for the following particulars in this department.

Plans for alterations to 33 buildings have been submitted.

Main Roads.—Between Swan Road and the Manor School a length of carriageway has been reconstructed with tar-macadam. New kerbs and channels have been fixed in Golborne Dale Road, and a section of the carriageway re-formed with tar-macadam.

The maintenance of the main roads had been a heavy and difficult task, owing to the damage done by the heavy and rapidly increasing motor traffic.

The scavenging of the streets and flushing of the sewers has been regularly carried out.

Secondary Roads.—Parkside Road has been reclassified, and now becomes a first class main road.

Market Street and Golborne Road are being reconstructed and many of the unemployed are engaged for this work. The carriageway is being re-formed with tar-macadam, new kerbs and channels fixed, and the footpaths flagged.

To relieve unemployment the following work has been carried out:—Reconstruction of Cross Lane, Park Road, Wargrave Road, Earle Street, and Bridge Street; and the completing of two parks and playgrounds.

...The roads are being reconstructed with new tar-macadam carriageways, and new kerbs and channels fixed.

The Mesnes and St. John's Parks have been planted and laid out, conveniences and shelters erected, and in the Mesnes Park a shallow boating pond constructed.

A length of sewer in Crow Lane West has been relaid, owing to damage from colliery subsidences. Unemployed men were engaged as far as possible.

Housing Estate.—The whole of the sewers for the 251 houses on the housing estate has been completed, and the streets formed with temporary ballasting, to assist building operations.

Sewage Works.—At the Central Sewage works a new 100,000 Septic Tank has been constructed of concrete.

When building is commenced on the Heald Farm Estate a similar tank will be required at the West-end Sewage Works.

Mortuary.—Plans have been made for the erection of a new mortuary, at an approximate cost of £250. The site, however, has not yet been settled.

Footpath diversion.—The footpath running from the Wargrave Inn to Redbank has been diverted, and now runs from Park Road above the Cemetery southwards, rejoining the original path at the south-west corner of the Cemetery.

Two Vulcan motor hurries have been acquired for the work of the Highways department.

Road Roller.—A new Fowler Road Roller has been purchased to replace the old Aveling and Porter Roller, which has been in service for 25 years, and this has been sold for £161.

RAINFALL.

The Superintendent of the Cemetery has supplied me with the following record:—

January	2.36 inches.
February	5.24 „
March.....	1.13 „
April	2.18 „
May	3.14 „
June	0.00 „
July	3.34 „
August	5.17 „
September	4.40 „
October	3.46 „
November	3.38 „
December	2.68 „

Total 36.48 inches.

The year passed with an almost negligible amount of snow. No measurable quantity fell in the first quarter, and none more till the 16th and 20th of December, on which days very small falls occurred, these respectively being equal to .21 and .38 inches of rain.

The winter months were nearly all mild, dull and damp, and the summer months cold, dull and wet, with the exception of June and the greater part of July. These months were brilliant and hot. No measurable rain fell in June, and practically none in July till the 26th, when heavy rain occurred till the 29th.

Till November there was an almost complete absence of frost, but in November and December there was almost continuous frost, accompanied by dense and very dirty fog.

The rainfall in the first half of the year was not much above the average, but for the second half it was considerably more, especially in August.

On only 21 days was there a fall of half an inch or more, the heaviest fall occurring on the 11th August, when 1.38 inches fell.

SUMMARY.

The year 1925, as far as weather was concerned, was an almost reproduction of 1924. The weather in the first quarter,

in fact till nearly the end of May, was dull, cool and damp, although there was not excessive rain except in February, when 5.24 inches fell, the total amount for the first half of the year being 14.05 inches. June, and till the 26th July, were very fine, sunny and warm. This return to more seasonable weather produced a very marked fall in sickness and deaths, whereas in April there were 20 deaths, in May there were 17 and in June 6 only.

Pneumonia was, as might have been expected, prevalent till the end of May. Whooping Cough, which occurred towards the end of the first quarter, increased rapidly during the second quarter. Some cases of Mumps also occurred.

The War Memorial Hospital was opened early in the year, and has been well utilized since. No death occurred in the hospital during its first year.

The third quarter started well, till the 26th July, then it broke and there was much heavy rain till the end of the quarter, just under 13 inches of rain having fallen.

The general health was, however, good except for the epidemics of Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever. The nett death-rate in this quarter having been 5.38 per 1000, and the Infant death-rate 33.3 per 1000 births.

The fourth quarter was mild in the early and late parts, but in the middle was very cold, wet and frosty, coupled for nearly a month with dense and dirty fog. Pulmonary complaints were very numerous. The epidemics of Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough ceased practically early in the quarter, but there was a big increase in the number of cases of Pneumonia. Chicken-pox and Measles also occurred. The rainfall for the quarter was 9.52 inches, chiefly in October and December, as none fell during the cold snap.

Dr. Isabel Cameron paid her visit of inspection to the Infant Welfare Class on the 3rd December.

Major Stewart, one of H.M. Inspectors, held an enquiry on the 17th December, into the question of Public Baths. The application to erect baths has been granted, but the site has been deferred, on account of the possibility of subsidences from colliery workings.

SURVEY, 1920-1924.

With the exception of the summer of 1921, the weather was unseasonable during practically the whole of the other four years. The winters were mild and wet, and the summers were dull and cold. There was a fortnight's warm and sunny spell in May, 1922, and a fortnight's hot spell in July, 1923. There was also much rain in all these years except 1921.

These conditions were not conducive to the best public health. Coupled with these conditions was the cessation of the "boom" years in trade, and a gradually increasing amount of un- and under-employment, thereby assisting to aggravate the fall in vitality.

The absence of sunshine and the unemployment have certainly affected the productivity of the residents, as far as reproduction of their kind is concerned. The birth-rate has gradually fallen until, with a larger population the actual number of births in 1925 were only two above the lowest recorded since 1910, which occurred in 1917, when everyone was suffering from war privations.

... In the last six years the birth-rate has fallen from 26.55 in 1920, the boom year, to 18.7 in 1925; when the populations were estimated respectively by the Registrar-General as 19805 and 19,910.

Below I give a table compiled by the County Medical officer, which is very instructive:—

Rates per 1000 of the population.

Mean of 5 years—	Birth- rate.	Death- rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory system.	Rate of d'ths under 1 yr. to 1,000 births.
1895-1899	35.6	16.3	0.84	160
1900-1904	33.3	15.3	0.79	145
1905-1909	27.5	12.8	0.93	113
1910-1914	26.8	12.9	0.98	114
1915-1919	20.7	13.4	0.97	90
1920-1924	22.4	11.4	0.77	94
Year 1925	18.7	11.0	1.00	72

In view of the above rates, the teaching of birth control does not appear desirable, seeing that the birth-rate has been

almost halved, whereas the death-rate has only been reduced by one-third.

I give below a further table which is also instructive:—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Population	19805	19160	19300	19520	19840	19910
Births, number	526	456	420	398	401	374
„ rates	26.55	23.8	21.7	20.38	20.2	18.7
Deaths, numbers	239	230	218	204	233	220
„ rates	12.06	12.0	11.2	10.45	11.7	11.0
Infant deaths, numbers.	62	50	33	36	32	27
„ rates...	117	109	78	90	79	72
Zymotic dise's, numbers	13	17	13	14	20	10
„ rates...	.65	.88	.67	.71	1.0	.5
T.B. Lungs, numbers.	16	18	12	11	17	20
„ rates...	.80	.93	.62	.56	.85	1.00
T.B.Other forms, nub'rs	4	—	3	1	1	2
„ rates...	.20	—	.15	.05	.05	.1
Respiratory dis's, nub'rs	53	36	51	35	37	51
(exclud'g Phthisis) rates	2.67	1.87	2.64	1.79	1.86	2.56

Notifications.

Infectious diseases noti-						
fied under Act, number	110	167	206	230	68	322
sick rates	5.55	8.7	10.67	11.7	3.42	16.16
T.B. Lungs, number..	23	29	14	20	32	43
„ rates...	1.16	1.51	.72	1.02	1.61	2.15
T.B.Other forms,number	14	18	15	10	13	13
„ rates...	.706	.93	.77	.51	.65	.65
Pneumonia, all number	77	67	76	98	100	113
forms, rates...	3.88	3.39	3.93	5.02	5.04	5.67
Percentage of deaths of						
children under 5 years						
to total deaths, numb'r	82	74	54	51	66	40
percentage	34.3	32.17	24.77	25.0	28.32	18.18
Poor Law relief cases..	802	3081	3093	1246	1196	1459
Cost to nearest £ ...	£1742	£3084	£2442	£2193	£2364	£3183
New houses completed...	0	33	32	44	76	92

In 1920 infectious diseases were about the usual number, except that there was a small epidemic of German Measles in the first four months, and some Measles in the third quarter.

1921.—There was more Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, chiefly in the fourth quarter. A few cases of Chicken-pox occurred in the first quarter, and Whooping Cough throughout the district from the end of the first quarter to the beginning of the third.

1922.—Scarlet Fever was the only infectious disease at all prevalent, and most cases occurred in the first quarter. Of the non-notifiable forms, Measles occurred as a slight epidemic.

1923.—With the exception of Whooping Cough, infectious diseases were much less prevalent than usual. Whooping Cough was notifiable in 1923, and 150 cases were notified. Probably there were twice or three times as many actual cases.

1924.—This year was also very free from infectious diseases. Pneumonia has been steadily increasing since 1920.

1925.—Whooping Cough was again very prevalent, and there were 170 cases notified, but probably two or three times as many cases. There was some Mumps in the second quarter, and rather more Scarlet Fever than usual in the third quarter. There was also a localized epidemic of Chicken-pox in the Wargrave ward, and some Measles in the last quarter. The greatest number of cases of Pneumonia occurred this year than in any of the previous five.

The most notable features in the tabular record given above is the steadily falling death-rates of infants, also the steadily decreasing percentage of deaths of children under five years of age to total deaths. The general death-rate is also tending satisfactorily downwards.

All forms of Tuberculosis and Respiratory diseases were becoming lower in the first part of the last six years, but have steadily increased for the latter half. Pneumonia fell from 1920 to 1921, but has steadily increased since: which, with tubercular diseases, is what would be expected from the weather conditions prevailing since 1921.

Regrettable features are the gradually, or rather rapidly, falling birth-rate, and the amount of Poor relief, which has also increased somewhat steadily. Reasons for these two items have been given earlier in the report.

New houses are being erected in a steadily increasing number, but many more are required.

There is no doubt that the great improvement in the number of infant deaths and those under five years is most satisfactory, and it appears to prove definitely, in my opinion,

the value of the work done in the Maternity and Infant Welfare department.

Progress in other directions has been marked, in the conversion of privies and pails to the water carriage system. At the same rate of progress the privies should be abolished ere long, and the pails also before many years have elapsed.

The highways have received a great deal of attention since the end of the war. Then they were in a most deplorable state, now the roads generally are in an excellent state.

Electric power was first supplied in July, 1925, and is a great improvement in many ways.

Before concluding, I wish to take this opportunity of thanking Dr. Latham for so kindly undertaking all my Public Health duties when I have been away on holiday, especially in view of the fact that, being a member of the Council, he cannot accept any fee for doing this work.

The future requirements are given in the County form at the end of the report. There is one item which I omitted there, and that is the provision of a suitable and properly equipped mortuary; the present one is bad in every conceivable way.

In conclusion, I wish to record the unfailing courtesy of all your Officials, but especially I must mention the Health Visitor and Sanitary Inspector, who have also given me invariably the greatest help in my work at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HAROLD E. WATKINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

1.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres—3105.

Population—Census, 1921: 19,160. Estimated, 1925: 19,910.

Physical features and general character of the area.—Generally flat, lowest part running near the centre from N. to S. (the part occupied by the Lake and Newton Brook)); highest land East and West—falling to extreme West at Sankey Brook, which forms western boundary of district. Subsoils, clay in western third of district—rest sand and sandstone.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921)—3842.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921—
3842.

Rateable value—£102,049.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£417/3/8.

Social conditions, including the chief occupations of the inhabitants.—Residential only to small extent, the greatest number of inhabitants being of the artisan class. The greatest area being agricultural, but the number engaged in this work is not large. Chief occupations—Locomotive building, Railway wagon building, Printing and Stationery, Sugar refining, Bleaching, dyeing and calico printing, and other smaller manufactories.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health.—None of these occupation have been found to be especially inimical to health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Births in 1925	374	185	189
Deaths in 1925	220	127	93

RATES PER 1 000 OF POPULATION.

	Birth rate.	Death-rate.	Death-rate from T'berc'losis of Respirat'y system	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1,000 B'rths.
Mean of 10 years				
1915-1924 ...	21.5	12.4	0.87	92
1924 ...	20.2	11.7	0.85	79
1925 ...	18.7	11.0*	1.00	72
<i>Increase or Decrease in 1925 on—</i>				
<i>Ten Years' Average</i>	—2.8	—1.4	+0.13	—2.0
<i>Previous Year ...</i>	—1.5	—0.7	+0.15	—7.0

* Standardizing Factor, 1.042; Corrected death-rate equals 11.5 per 1000.

The amount of Poor Law relief; the extent to which hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are utilised.—Total amount expended £3309/17/3, which does not include relief granted to "unemployed." Total number of persons relieved, 1459 is the aggregate of the four quarters. The number of individuals is less, as some were in relief more than one quarter and others for the whole year.

Any cause of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the period under review; and any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.—Whooping Cough, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters, reaching maximum in 3rd quarter; Mumps in 2nd quarter, not to great extent; Scarlet Fever, 3rd quarter throughout district except Newton ward; Chicken-pox, 4th quarter, chiefly in Wargrave ward. Occupations have no prejudicial effect, but overcrowding has, especially in increasing the prevalence of Whooping Cough.

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospital Accommodation provided or available:—

For Smallpox—By arrangement with Liverpool Corporation. Where situate—Fazackerley, near Liverpool.

For other Infectious Diseases—Newton-in-Makerfield Isolation Hospital. Where situate—Bradlegh Rd., Newton-in-Makerfield.

* Joint or otherwise—Otherwise.

* If you have the joint use of Isolation Hospital belonging to some other Authority, state nature of "Agreement" or "Arrangement." Is any Retaining Fee paid?

Number of Beds available for your District: For Smallpox—Not fixed. For other Infectious Diseases—26.

Is there any Hospital Accommodation in the District for—
(a) Tuberculosis—No. (b) Maternity Cases—No.
(c) Children—No.

Give postal address of Union Infirmary and any other Public Institution in District.—Whitecross Hospital, Warrington; War Memorial (Cottage) Hospital—10 beds—Bradlegh Road, Newton-in-Makerfield.

Have any of the following been provided IN YOUR DISTRICT?

(Give name, situation, nature of accommodation, and by whom provided):—

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children.	No.
Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. Give day and time open.	Town Hall, Earlestown—Thursdays, 2-30—4-30 p.m. Town Hall, Newton-le-Willows—Mondays, 3-0—4-0 p.m.
Day Nursery.	No.
School Clinic.	No.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.	No.
Venereal Diseases Treatment Centre	No.
Ambulance facilities.	
(a) For Infections Cases.	One; horse.
(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases.	Two; both motor.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—Harold Ernest Watkins.

Salary (including Bonns) as M.O.H. at 31/12/1925—£170/6/10.

Is he a whole or part time Officer?—Part time.

Any other public appointments held by him?—Medical Superintendent, Isolation Hospital, and Maternity and Child Welfare Centres; M.O. to the Post Office; Certifying Factory Surgeon.

Sanitary Inspector (s)—Henry Ashcroft, Ass. R. San. Institute.

Salary (including Bonus) as Inspector at 31/12/1925—£330/0/0.

Is he a whole or part time Officer?—Whole time.

If not, what other appointments does he hold?—Market Inspector; Superintendent of Cleansing Department.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector (s)—None.

Any Specialised Inspector (s) e.g. Food Inspector)?—No.

Any other Public Health Officers, such as Health Visitors and Special Nurses; if any, give names, salaries, diplomas or certificates, or qualifications, and any other public offices held by them:—

Health Visitor Miss Annie Jackson, Fully trained and Certificated Nurse, C.M.B. Salary—£200, plus £5 for uniform.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

Nature of arrangements in the district for—

(a) General Nursing. District Nursing Associations. Two.

(b) For Infectious Diseases, e.g., Measles, etc. Health Visitor visits on request, and advises.

By whom provided. Two Nurses provided by Nursing Associations.

If not by Local Authority, state financial arrangements and scheme of co-ordination. By voluntary contributions. No co-ordination.

Is there a District Nursing Association in the District? Yes. How many District Nurses employed?—Two.

If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work? No.

Does the Association undertake—

(a) Midwifery Cases? No—except in urgent cases when Doctor or Midwife is not available.

(b) Monthly Nursing? No.

Has any local scheme been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants? Yes.

Midwives.—Is any midwife employed by or assisted by the Local Authority? No.

Number of midwives on the County Council Register, 31-12-1925. No. on Register—11. No. actually practising—11.

Any comments as to the sufficiency or otherwise of the midwifery service? Quite sufficient.

Legislation in force—

Specify any— Newton District Improvement Act. Local Acts. Operative from 1855.

Local Orders.

General Adoptive Acts.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act
Operative from 1890.

Public Healths' Acts, Amendment,
Act—Operative from 1890.

Public Healths' Acts, Amendment,
Act—Operative from 1907 part.

Bye-laws relating to public health.

New Streets and Buildings. Altera-
tion of Buildings, Nuisances and
Slaughterhouses.

Common Lodging Houses, and
Houses let in Lodging.

Regulations under Dairies, Cow-
sheds, Milkshops Order.

Observations as to their adminis-
tration.

Satisfactory.

Particulars as to co-operation with—

The medical and ancillary services
of the National Health Insurance.

None.

The Voluntary Hospitals.

None.

The Poor Law or other agencies.

None.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply—

Source and quality.

Deep Wells (two) and headings in
Southworth Road, in Red Sandstone
Quality Good.

Constant or intermittent.

Constant.

Approx. No. of dwelling-houses
supplied.

Direct. All except about 13. By
stand pipe. None.

Possibilities of contamination.

None.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent
action.

No.

Any insufficiency, and where.

No.

Nature of extensions (if any) during
the year.

1,100 yards 4" main laid to Red
House Farm, and neighbouring
cottages.

To all houses on Housing Estate and
to all other new houses.

Rivers and Streams—

Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams. Sources and nature.

Since middle of May Millingford Brook was found to be much polluted by effluent from the Artificial Silk Mill in Golborne. Constant inspections have been made and the County Council notified on several occasions, which is taking necessary action.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Sewage Disposal Works, method of treatment.

Septic Tanks and Single Contact Bacteria beds. An additional Septic Tank has been constructed at Central Sewage Works.

What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during the Year.

By gravity in Earthenware socketted pipes. Extension to new houses.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system.

Vulcan Village and Vitriol Square, drained direct into Sankey Brook.

Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c.

Periodic Flushing. Smoke test applied where desirable.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1925:—

Privy Middens: No. of Middens, 138. No. of Closets attached to these Middens, 212.

No. of Pail Closets, 2,562. No. of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens, —
...No. of Fresh Water Closets, 1,485. No. of movable Ashbins for refuse, 3,759.

No. of Waste Water Closets, 28.

Conversions—

	During Year 1925.	During 5 years, 1921—1925.
No. of Privy Closets—To Fresh w.c.'s	117	249
„ „ To Waste w.c.'s.	—	—
„ „ To Pails etc. ..	—	—
No. of Pail Closets—To Fresh w.c.'s.	53	132
„ „ To Waste w.c.'s.	—	—
No. of Waste w.c.'s to Fresh w.c.'s.....	—	—
No. of Houses at which movable Ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	117	249

Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets?—Yes, all within reach of sewers are to be converted.

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion?—Yes.

If so, how much?—Privies £4. Pails £2.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for NEW property?—Fresh Water Closets.

Scavenging—

Character and efficiency of the arrangements for Scavenging and Removal and Disposal of House Refuse for whole of district.

Quite efficient. The whole of this work is performed by the Sanitary Authority.

Motor Vehicles are now replacing the horses and carts.

How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)?

Sanitary Authority.

Are motor vehicles used?

Yes.

If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?

Early mornings.

How is the Refuse disposed of?

Contents of Pails and Privy Middens to a depot sold to farmers. Dry Refuse to a Tip.

Has a Destructor been provided?

No.

Sanitary Inspections during 1925—

No. of premises visited.

1258.

Defects or nuisances.

No. discovered—330. No. abated—318

No. of Notices served.

Informal—137.

Statutory—10.

Legal proceedings.

No.—None.

Result—None.

Smoke Nuisance—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement?—No.

No. of Observations.—6.

No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result.—None.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?—Not fixed.

Offensive Trades.

No. 25. Character Fish Frying. Action taken or needed. None.

Workshops and Workplaces.

What is their condition? Good.

Common Lodging-houses.

No. 1. Are they Registered? Yes. What is their condition? Good.

Houses let in Lodgings.

Action taken or needed. None taken.

Schools.

Sanitary condition. Good.

Water Supply, &c., Town's supply.

Canal Boats.

No. Inspected. None. No. of Infringements of Acts. —.

3.—HOUSING.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.

(I.) General housing conditions in the area:—

- (1) General housing conditions.—Good.
- (2) (a) Extent of shortage of houses.—Between 250 and 300.
- (b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage.—Council's Housing scheme not yet completed. Provision of houses by private owners, and some by speculative builders.
- (c) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future.—No changes recently, except some migration of population to new houses in the district. Proposed erection of Beet Sugar Factory, which may necessitate importation of skilled workers and their families.

(II.) Overcrowding:—

- (1) Extent.—Probably about 100 houses are at present overcrowded.
- (2) Causes.—Housing shortage.
- (3) Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding.—Housing scheme and building by private owners. Provision of new houses is the only means of overcoming the present overcrowding.
- (4) Principal cases of overcrowding during the year 1925, and action taken.—In cases of serious overcrowding efforts have been made to allot new houses to the persons most affected.

(III.) Fitness of houses:—

- (1) (a) General standard of housing in the area.—Good.
- (b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses.—Very few houses are unfit, and on these Closing Orders have been made, but it has not been possible to give effect to them.
- (c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners, or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants.—Generally to owners' default, but some are due to careless tenants.
- (2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under:—
 - (a) The Public Health Acts.—Action has been taken under the Housing Acts.

(b) The Housing Acts.

(Note.—The detailed statistics as to action under these Acts during the year 1925 should be given in the Table set out on Page 8).

- (3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness, either under the Public Health Acts or under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.—No special difficulty.

• Special measures taken or suggested:—

- (a) Any special action to secure improved management of property by owners.—No.
 - (b) Better care of property by tenants.—No.
 - (c) The gradual carrying out of repairs according to agreed arrangements.—No.
 - (d) Any special method of dealing with unfit back-to-back houses, or other types of insanitary property.—There are no slum areas and very few back-to-back houses—these however are NOT unfit.
- (4) Conditions so far as they affect housing, as regards:—
- (a) Water supply.—All houses supplied.
 - (b) Closet accommodation.—See page 5.
 - (c) Refuse disposal.—See page 5.
 - (d) Measures taken during 1925 as regards (a), (b) and (c).—1100 yards of 4-inch branch main have been laid to Red House Farm and neighbouring houses.

(IV.) Unhealthy areas:—

Information as to complaints received or representations made and action taken, in regard to unhealthy areas.—There are no unhealthy areas.

(V.) Byelaws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, etc.:—

- (1) As to working of existing byelaws.—Satisfactory.
- (2) As to need for new byelaws or revision of existing byelaws.—No revision necessary.

(VI.) General and Miscellaneous:—

Generally, an account of any action bearing on the public health not covered by the above particulars, which has been taken during the year by the Local Authority in connection with overcrowding, insanitary property, and housing, whether under the Housing Acts or the Public Health Acts, including any action taken by the Authority to provide information as to the proper use of household fittings (e.g., sinks,

water-closets, etc.) and the disposal of household refuse so far as possible by burning.—No special action has been found necessary.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

No. of new houses erected during the year:—	
(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	92
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(i) By the Local Authority	55
(ii) By other bodies or persons	27
No. of houses in course of erection under Council's building scheme (a further 60 have been contracted for)...	20
Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation:—	
Have any advances been made during 1925—	
(a) By loans?—5. No.—30 (houses). Amount of loans—£7145.	
(b) By subsidy?—37. No.—37. Amount of subsidies—£3700.	
Unfit Dwelling-houses—	
Inspection—(1) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	46
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regul'ns, 1925.	46
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	28
Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices—	
No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	26
Action under Statutory Powers—	
A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—(a) By owners—4.	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. —	—
(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	None.

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

- (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied —
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—(a) By owners. —
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. —

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925:—

- (1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders —
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made —
- (3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit —
- (4) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —
- (5) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —

D.—No. of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, etc. 1

* Refers only to action taken in reference to housing defects. Notices with regard to drainage and other defects should be included under Sanitary Inspections on page 5.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.—Observations on—

- (1) The wholesomeness of the milk produced within or brought into the district.—Samples have been taken from all suppliers, and have been found satisfactory and free from Tuberculosis. A large quantity of milk is now supplied in the district direct from the farm where produced, and bottled immediately after milking under up-to-date conditions.
- (2) The general adequacy of the arrangements for the supply and distribution of milk of pure and wholesome character.—Good.
- (3) The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.—It has not been found necessary to deal with any default under the above Acts or Order.

The Milk (Special Designations)
Order, 1923—

No. of Dealers' licences issued during 1925 in respect of: "Certified" Milk—None.
"Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) Milk—None.

No. of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" Milk: "Grade A" Milk.—None.
Pasteurising Plants.—None.
Retail Distributors.—None.

Types of apparatus licensed for the pasteurisation of milk, —

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation.—None.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected? Yes. What is their condition? Good

Give date of the Regulations made under the Order of the L.G.B. Are they enforced? Yes.

Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow. (a) Where cows are habitually grazed. —.

(b) Where cows are not habitually grazed. 800 cubic feet.

Cowkeepers. Total No. of Cowkeepers 18. No. on Register 12. No. of Inspections during year 40.

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers). Total No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers) 21. No. on Register 21.

Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows? Give particulars. None.

Action taken as to—

(i) Tuberculous Milk. Samples taken frequently for pathological examination.

(ii) Tuberculous Cattle. None.

No. of samples of milk obtained during 1925 for bacteriological examination.—12.

Results of bacteriological examination.—All found free from liability to cause Tuberculosis.

(b) Meat.—Observations on—

(1) Meat inspection (including arrangements for inspection at the time of slaughter and for marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924; disease in meat and arrangements for disposal of condemned meat. Inspections carried out at time of slaughter. No arrangements for marking meat unfit. Meat disposed of to Manure Works.

(2) Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1914 as regards stalls, shops, stores, and vehicles. Inspections carried out regularly.

(3) Has a public slaughterhouse been provided? Yes (not much used).

Is it conducted satisfactorily? Yes.

Private slaughterhouses:—

	In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In Dec'br, 1925.
No. registered	—	—	—
No. licensed	3	3	3
Total *	3	3	3

* In a Rural District where Urban powers were not in force throughout the whole district in 1920, the total number in use should be given.

(c) Other Foods:—

Action taken in respect of places where food is prepared—

Bakehouses.

No. 15. Condition? Good.

Other Premises.

Fish Friers and Chips 25.—Good.

Amount of food condemned or surrendered during 1925 as unfit for human consumption—

State approximately the weight of carcasses and of parts—

Tuberculous carcasses and parts.

One whole beast. 500 lbs.

Diseased, unsound, or unwholesome meat (other than above).

Imported meat. 50 lbs. Bacon. 80 lbs.

Other foodstuffs.

Condensed Milk. 9 tins.

No. of Legal Proceedings and result. None.

Food poisoning? Action taken (if any).

None.

Action taken by Local Authority (if any) in respect of—

(i) Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

None. Carried out by County Police Authorities.

(ii) Condensed Milk Regs., 1923.

None.

(iii) Dried Milks Regs., 1923.

None.

(iv) Milk and Cream Regs., 1912—17.

None.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTE.—The Ministry of Health state the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the period since 1920 should be reviewed, and noteworthy facts as to the source or spread of infection should be recorded. See text of Report.

Diphtheria anti-toxin.—Notes on the supply and prompt use. Ample supply kept and used promptly in actual or suspected cases.

Is a supply kept within the district? Yes.

If so, where? Town Hall, Earlestown; Isolation Hospital; and Residence of Medical Officer of Health

Encephalitis Lethargica—Any special occurrence? No.

Scarlet Fever.—Discovery of "return" cases. Two—both removed to Hospital.

Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, and Trench Fever.—Experience in regard to these diseases? None notified except pneumonia, and there has been no unusual prevalence.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations.—Arrangements with Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for many years.

No. of specimens examined in 1925:—

Blood: 1. Sputum: 27. Throat Swabs: 91.

Swabs for Ophthalmia Neonatorum: None

Others: Sewage effluent (1). Neaves Food (1).

Action taken in regard to (a) Contacts, (b) Return cases, (c) Carrier cases. (a) kept under observation (b) two cases, both removed to Hospital. (c) None discovered

Has any use been made of the tests known as the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases? No.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.—No. of vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health: (a) primary: None. (b) re-vaccinations: none.

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your district, state for what period (see Table on page):—

Measles: No. Whooping Cough: Yes.

Diarrhoea (under 2 years): No. Chicken-pox: No.

Any others: No.

Observations. The notifications of whooping cough is incomplete, as one quarter to one third of the cases are never seen by any medical man.

No. of times School Closure adopted during 1925 for:—

Scarlet Fever: —. Whooping Cough: —

Diphtheria: —. Chicken-pox: 1

Measles: —. Influenza: —.

Any other diseases (specify same): None.

No. of Reports made during 1925 under Section 14 (4) Sanitary Officers Order, 1922* One.

Subjects of Reports. School Closure for chicken-pox. Wargrave Infant School.

*Section 14 (4) requires copies of these Reports to be forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Influenza.—Observations on any special inquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics. No epidemic of this disease occurred in 1925.

Has any special attention been given to (a) cancer, (b) locally contracted anthrax, and (c) rabies? (a) Yes. A short lecture was given by the Medical Officer of Health at the Infant Welfare Films Show, (b) and (c); No cases occurred.

Disinfection:—

No. of Houses disinfected during 1925: 165 Method (state disinfectant used): Formaldehyde Vapour.

Are Houses disinfected after (a) Phthisis: Yes (b) Measles: No.

†Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise): Steam.

No. of Articles disinfected: 1601.

Where is Apparatus situated?: Isolation Hospital.

†If Apparatus at Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, etc., of Patients not moved to the Hospital?: Yes.

If not, please state how disinfection of Clothing, etc., in these cases is carried out.:—

Any arrangement for bathing verminous, etc., persons?: No.

In how many instances has disinfestation been carried out?: None.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified,													Hospital.		
	Total Cases at all Ages	Years.												Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.
		Under 1.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over.			
Scarlet Fever ...	112	3	2	6	8	48	21	11	4	1	—	—	81	2	2	
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup }	14	1	—	1	3	3	2	1	2	—	—	—	14	1	1	
Acute Prim'y Pneumonia	108	8	10	2	9	17	5	4	17	9	10	12	6	2*	30	
Acute Influenzal "	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1*	—	—	
Puerperal Fever...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1*	2	
Encephalitis Lethargica...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	5	9	2	1	—	—	
Erysipelas ...	20	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pulm'n'y Tub'erculosis }	25	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	6	4	9	1	—	—	15	
O'hr forms of T'c'losis }	18	1	—	—	—	2	1	2	7	3	1	—	—	9	4	
Whooping Cough ...	170	18	26	25	22	47	4	2	4	1	2	—	1*	1*	5	
Totals ...	491	35	38	36	42	121	38	24	45	26	32	17	104	17	60	

* Cases removed to and deaths in Whitecross Hospital, Warri gton.
T.B. Cases Deaths in Sanatoria and Hospitals.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods		New Cases.				DEATHS <small>(The number of deaths classified should agree with the total supplied by the Registrar-General)</small>			
		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulm'n'y		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulm'n'y	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years									
0—1	...	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
1—5	.	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	..	1	2	2	1	—	1	—	—
10—15	...	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	1	2	3	—	1	—	—	—
20—25	}	6	7	—	1	3	—	—	1
25—35									
35—45	..	4	3	—	—	3	1	—	—
45—55	}	9	1	1	2	7	1	—	—
55—65									
65 & upwards		1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals		25	18	7	6	15	4	—	1
		43		13		19		1	

†What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths? 0.20.

In your opinion, is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient? Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify? No case has occurred.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district? No.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)
REGULATIONS, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations (Articles 3, 5, 6, and 7) relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade. One case occurred in an employer, who was removed to a Sanatorium forthwith.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

Any action taken under this Section No
If so, No. of applications for compulsory removal to hospital. None.
No. of cases in which Orders were granted. —. Observations. —.

7.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.*

* This section only applies to Local Authorities carrying out Maternity and Child Welfare schemes.

The Ministry of Health state the Medical Officer's Report should include information on—

- (1) The general arrangements made for attending to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and of children under five years of age, including the work of health visitors, midwives, and nurses. Expectant and nursing mothers are seen and advised at Infant Welfare Centre but cannot be examined as the accommodation is unsuitable and there is no equipment. A separate and properly equipped ante-natal centre is required which should be held on a different day from the Infant Welfare Class. Children under five are seen at Infant Welfare Centre. The Health Visitor advises mothers and if further advice is necessary suggests attendance at the Infant Welfare Class to see the Medical Superintendent. Midwives and nurses advise privately.
- (2) Consultation and Treatment Centres. As above, but no treatment can be carried on.
- (3) Maternity homes and hospitals and other institutions for the reception of expectant and nursing mothers and *young* children as in-patients. None in district. Ministry of Health has refused permission to institute a Maternity Home in the district at the present time.
- (4) The incidence of maternal mortality and investigations into maternal deaths, still-births, and infants deaths, no case of direct maternal death has occurred. One woman was confined prematurely but died from Chronic Nephritis. All other deaths of women of reproductive age was due to diseases unconnected with pregnancy. All still-births and infant deaths have been the subject of enquiry.

- (5) The developement of ante-natal work at Centres and in connection with the midwifery service where this has proved practicable. This has been impracticable.
- (6) Methods of dealing with unmarried mothers and illegitimate children and with children permanently or temporarily deprived of a home with their own parents. No institutions in the district Voluntary and Union Hospitals are the only available places.
- (7) The arrangements for the supply of food and milk—per Infant Welfare Centres
- (8) The arrangements for orthopaedic treatment in areas in which such treatment is provided for children under five years of age.
None provided within area. These cases are arranged for by private medical attendants.
- (9) The work of voluntary societies in the area in connection with maternity and child welfare and the place occupied by each in the Local Authority's scheme. None in District. A committee of ladies appointed by the District Council has done much useful work.
- (10) The co-ordination of all the work under this sub-section with the School Medical Service. None.
- (11) Observations on the incidence of puerperal fever, ophthalmia neonatorum, measles, whooping cough, epidemic diarrhoea, poliomyelitis, and other infectious diseases of parturient women, infants, and young children, and the methods adopted to diminish the mortality and permanent injury to health caused by these diseases, and the results achieved by those methods. None has occurred in parturient women one case of puerperal fever was sent to hospital. Three cases of ophthalmia occurred, all were treated at home and all did well. Poliomyelitis has not occurred. Whooping cough and measles are the most difficult diseases to contend with as parents cannot be made to understand that both are dangerous diseases and overcrowding has led to many more cases than would otherwise have occurred.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Details should be given for all County districts in the following table of each case of ophthalmia neonatorum notified during 1925

CASES			Vision Un- impaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness	Deaths.
Number Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
3	3	—	3	—	—	—

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1925.

The opening of the War Memorial (Cottage) Hospital.
New houses. 92 erected.
Extension of water main to Red House District. Conversion of Privies and Pails.
Extension of Septic Tank accommodation at Central Sewage Works.
Considerable Road Improvements and Completion of Recreation Grounds.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District.

More Houses.
Extension of Sewage treatment works to meet necessary needs.
Conversion of Privies and Pails.
Paving and draining back streets and passages.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

(Signed) HAROLD E. WATIKNS

April 1926.

Medical Officer of Health.

